SIAS, J.
Translations and Interpretations
of Mountains, Rivers and Creeks

Kluane, 1973

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Bullion Creek (Thyae-da-tsálá)

--Literally, "white rock Water". So called for the abundant amount of gypsum in the area. Uses: Pounded into a powder and rubbed into skins to make them white. Doll heads and faces were carved from it for childrens toys.

Observation Mountain (Á-ein--Thul)

--Literally, "quite distinct"or "by itself". This mountain inhabited by goats on the Slims River near Kaskawalsh Glacier.

Sheep Mountain (Tá-chul)

--Meaning, "scraper", referring to the sharp flat rocks of this area used for tanning skins.

Sulphur Lake (Coo-dtō--Mun)

--Literally, Lily Pad Lake.

Halfbreed Creek (Sá-sán-ʒut--Tá-gá)

--Literally, Rotton copper creek. Copper of inferior quality.

Duke River (Sher-ndoo--Choo)

--Literally, Many bears water. Water of many bears.

Mines Creek (Thá-kl-hánā-á)

--Meaning, sand bar or sand point, referring to the mouth of the creek. Before the Alaska Hwy., this creek was called Lucky Jack by locals of the area.

Burwash Creek (Klō-ká--Choo)

--Literally, "Mountains all around". Referring to the mountains in the canyon area.

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Quill Creek (Kliln-gee)

--Literally "Matches Creek". Referring to the flint rocks of the area.

Congdon Creek (Njoo-lut)

--Literally, resembling a burnt area.

White River (Nă-dtă-yăt--Choo)

--Meaning "high mountain water". The high mountain referring to Mt. Nazahat. A member of the Copper band is said to have perished on the top of ~~Nazahat~~ Klotsan Hill while searching for copper. Cutting footholds with his axe he climbed to the top. Meanwhile a severe snow storm blew in his tracks and footholds. It is beleived that his remains along with his copper axe lie on top of the mountain frozen in the ice.

Donjek River (Da-zr--Choo)

--Literally, "White berries water". So named for the small silvery willow shrubs(Elaeagnus commutata) growing along the rivers edge and yielding a white silvery berry. Removal of the outside mealy cover reveals a brown seed-stone which were used for beading or other decorative work.

Cement Creek (Hlr-dtut-gee--Ta-ga)

--Meaning; Dirty or Muddy water

Spring Creek (Mĕ-thē-dă-dă)

--Literally, "where the owl sits".

Hogue Creek (See-n-gee)

--Meaning: Indian-paint creek

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Jacquot Island (Tan-joo-shō--Dă-lil)

--Meaning "Floating land".

Long ago, a Snake or Eel-like people inhabited the mainland of this area. On rising from the water, one member was killed during a surprise attack by invaders. With a double bladed knife the head and tail were severed and sinking to the bottom of the lake, it later resurfaced in the form of a rock island. This can be seen by the indentation of the head on the South end as well as that of the tail on the North end.

A losing battle took place for the Snake people of which five survivors fled to the Steele Creek glacier area.

Steele Creek (Gyū-ăn-gee) formerly known as Wolf Creek

--Meaning, "Snake Den". This area, inhabited at one time by the Snake people having been driven to this location from the mouth of the Big Arm(Talbot Arm). Being persued by their former invaders who came and raided their food caches, another battle took place. The remaining five Snake people were killed. It is beleived that their spirit still lingers.

Glaciers:

--The existing legend holds that all glacier areas are haunted by the spirit of the Snake people. Particular caution is observed while cooking in these areas. The frying or roasting of meats, causing a strong aroma of grease should be

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guarded against. All foods are to be boiled. The spirit of the snake-like monster, it is beleived, lives beneath the glacier and the high aroma of fried foods or burning grease would arouse him thus causing the glacier to move and rumble.

Lynx Creek (Dt-chō--Choo)

--Literally: "Porcupine Water".

Edith Creek (Kī-dulń-gee)

--Meaning,"Red willows", along the creeks edge.

"Edith", refers to Edith Distan, the wife of Henry Distan one of the first big game hunters in the area.

Wolverine Creek (Nǎm-br-gee)

--Meaning; "Copper Knife Creek".

Pickhandle Lake (Thyā-chun-chē--Mun)

--Meaning: "Pick Handle Lake"

Teepee Lake (Hlrōō-dǎ-tsá-ā--Mun)

Meaning: "Buck-brush Lake".

Big Horn Creek (Mbī-jee--Ta-ga)

Literally: "Sheep Horn Creek".

Wade Creek (Ta-hlā-coo-lēē--gee)

--Literally, "Lots of jack-fish creek."

Mun--Lake

Choo--Water

Tǎ-gá--Creek

Gee--Stream or Creek

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